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REPORT

ON THE STATE OF THE

PUBLIC HEALTH

IN THE

URBAN DISTRICT OF BUSHEY

URBAN DISTRICT OF CHORLEYWOOD

URBAN DISTRICT OF RICKMANSWORTH

RURAL DISTRICT OF WATFORD

IN THE COUNTY OF

HERTFORD

WILLIAM HARVEY, M.D., B.Ch., D.P.H.
MEDICAL OFFICER OF HEALTH

FOR THE YEAR

1955

REPORT OF THE MEDICAL OFFICER OF HEALTH FOR THE YEAR 1955.

To the Chairman and Members of:

*the Urban District Council of Bushey,
the Urban District Council of Chorleywood,
the Urban District Council of Rickmansworth,
and
the Rural District Council of Watford.*

LADIES AND GENTLEMEN,

I have the honour to present my Annual Report on the state of the Public Health, and, the Reports by the Inspectors on the Sanitary Conditions, in the Districts, during the year 1955.

The general health was good. Apart from Measles there was no marked prevalence of any of the infectious diseases. A considerable amount of work was done in connection with the repair of houses, and with measures for the replacement of houses which cannot be brought up to a reasonable standard. The Councils' sanitary services, which are working efficiently, have increased to meet the needs of the growing populations.

CHANGES IN THE POPULATION.

The statistical data in the reports are based on the Registrar General's estimates of the mid-year populations of the Districts. These have been compared with those for the previous year in the table given below, in which changes from the balances between births and deaths, and, from migration are analysed.

The increase from migration in the Watford Rural District shows an appreciable reduction on that for the previous year, namely 2,210 compared with 3,425.

A table giving the mid-year populations in 1955 and 1954, and the total changes due to, the natural increases, or, the excesses of births over deaths, and, the balances from inward and outward migratory movements.

	Population 1955	Population 1954	Total Increase	Natural Increase	Migration
Bushey ...	17,940	17,710	230	102	+ 128
Chorleywood	5,430	4,820	610	32	+ 578
Rickmansworth	26,180	25,820	360	116	+ 244
Watford Rural	51,100	48,560	2,540	330	+ 2,210
Totals ...	100,650	96,910	3,740	580	+ 3,160

THE BIRTH-RATE

The birth-rates for 1955 and for some previous years are given in the reports. With the increasing population the number of births reaches a higher level each year ; there were 1,444 last year, compared with 1,365 during the year before. The number of births in 1938 was 834.

A table showing the Live, and Still-Births in the Districts during 1955, corrected for inward, and outward transfers.

Still Births	1955	Live Births		Totals
		M.	F.	
8	Bushey	138	108	246
1	Chorleywood	43	39	82
5	Rickmansworth	185	171	356
13	Watford Rural	384	376	760
—	—	—	—	—
27	Area	750	694	1,444

The birth-rate for England and Wales in 1955 was 15.0 per 1,000 of the home population, which was 0.2 lower than that for 1954.

THE DEATH-RATE.

The death-rates for the Districts compare very favourably with the rate of 11.7, per thousand of the population of England and Wales. The rate for Bushey (8.0) was the lowest since 1939; whilst, the Watford Rural District's rate (8.4) which was slightly higher, reflects the low rates recorded in that District during the last eight years.

Before making any further comparison between the rates of mortality in the Districts it is desirable that the crude rates given in the reports should be standardised, so that corrections may be made for the differing age and sex constitutions of their populations. The standardised rates take into account the different death rates at different ages, and thus includes adjustments for unusually high proportions, of persons round about the ages of 5—40, when the death-rate is at its lowest, or, of very young or of old persons, whose mortality rates are relatively higher.

The crude death-rates, comparability factors, and, standardised death-rates for the Districts in 1955, are : Bushey, $8 \times 0.96 = 7.7$; Chorleywood, $9.2 \times 0.78 = 7.2$; Rickmansworth, $9.2 \times 1.11 = 10.2$; Watford, Rural $8.4 \times 1.27 = 10.7$.

The constitutions of the populations of the Rickmansworth and, Watford Rural Districts are, therefore, favourable to a low death-rate, whilst those of Bushey and Chorleywood are unfavourable. These differences will tend to disappear as the new estates, which naturally contain a high proportion of residents in the younger age groups, become older.

The Infantile Mortality rates were exceptionally low last year. This reflects the position over the whole country where the rate of 24.9 deaths per 1,000 related live births, was the lowest ever recorded. At the turn of the century the rate was 156.

The causes of Death are classified in the Reports under the 36 headings based on the abbreviated Lists of the International Statistical Classification of Diseases, Injuries, and Causes of Death, 1948.

THE NOTIFIABLE INFECTIOUS DISEASES.

The incidence of the notifiable infectious diseases during 1955 was very satisfactory, except in the cases of Measles and Acute Poliomyelitis. There was a general reduction in the number of cases of Scarlet Fever, 51 cases being notified last year compared with 95 in the previous year. There was also an appreciable reduction in the notifications of Whooping Cough, which at 116 were 59 fewer than in 1954. The year 1955 was an epidemic one for Measles; the number of cases notified was 1,767 compared with 30 in 1954 and 2,224 in 1953. The two year periodicity in the prevalence of Measles is shown by its incidence over the last few years :—

1951	1952	1953	1954	1955
1,177	396	2,224	30	1,767

As 341 of the cases in 1952 occurred in November and December they can be regarded as part of the epidemic in the early months of the following year. There was one death (1951) during the period reviewed.

There were nineteen cases of Acute Poliomyelitis last year compared with two during 1954. This increased rate corresponded to a higher incidence for the whole country. Twelve of the cases were of the paralytic type, although in most of these the amount of paralysis was small. It is hoped that the vaccine treatment which is being developed for the prevention of this disease will prove to be satisfactory. In the meantime the following advice for the prevention of the disease, or, of its more serious effects, when the infection is prevalent, is given :—

1. Physical strain and fatigue should be avoided, especially if there is any suggestion of headache and indisposition. Rest in bed may be indicated. Strenuous exercise or fatigue during the early, or incubation, stage of the disease lowers the resistance of the nerve cells, and so increases the likelihood of paralysis.
2. A high standard of personal hygiene should be maintained, as the virus seems to behave to some extent like a gastro-intestinal infection : The hands should be washed before meals and after visiting the toilet. Food should be protected from flies and vermin.
3. The avoidance of crowded places is generally advised.

There have been no cases of Diphtheria in the Districts during the last seven years. The remarkable change in the incidence of this disease is due to the general adoption of Immunisation following the national appeal made by the Ministry of Health in 1940, and it is shown very clearly in the following comparative figures for the whole country :—

Year	Deaths	Corrected Notifications
1941	2,641	50,797
1946	472	18,284
1948	156	3,575
1951	33	664
1955	11*	161*

*Provisional

Perhaps I should add a sentence from my Annual Report for 1940, when the Councils were establishing the immunisation services which did such valuable work in their Districts—"It can be stated without doubt that the general adoption of Diphteria Prophylaxis or Immunisation would mean the extinction of Diphtheria, and the saving of 2,000 lives a year in England and Wales." That objective has been attained, and, now, it must be held. To maintain this freedom from a disease which was formerly dreaded by parents, it is necessary that the state of immunity of the children, and particularly, of the very young ones, should be kept at a high level. Immunisation is voluntary and free, and it is of a simple nature which does not upset the child. About the seventh month is a suitable time for the first of the two injections, which can be given by the family doctor, or at any of the child welfare, or special, clinics in the area. As Immunisation is voluntary, it is well to remember that the responsibility for protecting a child against Diphtheria rests with its parents.

There was one case of Typhoid Fever, in Bushey, the source of infection of which, as so often happens in isolated cases, was not found. The cases of Puerperal Pyrexia and Ophthalmia Neonatorium notified in Bushey were from a Maternity Hospital which receives patients from a wide area outside the County.

THE PROTECTION OF FOOD.

Considerable attention was given to the supervision of the food supply, and a special study was made of the various measures which would be required under the new legislation. Every possible help will be given to those who are employed in the production or handling of the people's food, but the only standard of cleanliness which can be accepted must be the highest attainable. Never was the means for reaching the highest standard so readily available ; equipment is now excellent, both in design and in materials, whilst complete cleanliness can be guaranteed with the new cleansing preparations. Refrigeration is necessary ; it preserves the quality and attractiveness of food, and, it prevents the growth of any germs with which it may have been contaminated.

Whilst much can be done with good equipment, the human factor still remains the most important one, not only in the handling of the equipment, but, because the food handlers, themselves, are often found to be the source from which the infection has reached the food in an outbreak of poisoning. Too much stress cannot be laid on the hygiene of the hands, which commonly get contaminated from lavatory fittings, or from any infection which their owner, unknowingly, may be carrying. Washing arrangements should be good and convenient, and full use should be made of them. Individual towels, or hot air driers, for the hands, are to be preferred to roller and general towels, which must be regarded as insanitary where there is more than one worker. The nails should be kept reasonably short and clean. The evidence which is now accumulating suggests that more attention should be paid to the hygiene of lavatories, and particularly those in food establishments, schools,

and public places, as it is often from this source that infection with a germ of the food-poisoning class is contracted, rather than from actual food. As advice on this point seems desirable, it is suggested that door handles, and, the fittings of lavatories should be wiped with a cloth which has been damped with a fairly strong disinfectant as a supplement to normal routine cleansing. The frequency of disinfection, which must vary with circumstances, should never be less than daily, although this rate could with advantage be increased.

It is necessary to mention the danger of keeping foods, such as soups, stews, and made-up dishes containing meat or fish, in the kitchen overnight, where the temperature is suitable for the growth of any organisms with which they may have been infected. A common form of infection, causing a toxin poisoning, is that derived from septic sores and nasal discharges. There is occasionally a tendency for this practice to be followed in establishments where large numbers of meals have to be prepared. If such food is not intended for consumption within two or three hours, it should be, cooled and placed in a refrigerator, stored at a temperature not exceeding 39 degrees farenheit (4° C.) until required, and thoroughly reheated before serving.

Good work was done in controlling the rodent and other pests found in the Districts.

The work of the Public Health Departments in their relationships to the homes of the people demands sympathy and understanding, in addition to technical ability. These qualities have been well shown by the Inspectors and their Staffs.

I have the honour to be,

Ladies and Gentlemen,

Your obedient Servant,

WILLIAM HARVEY.

Eighty-Second Annual Report.
August, 1956.

MEDICAL OFFICER OF HEALTH

*Urban Districts of Bushey, Chorleywood, Rickmansworth,
and Rural District of Watford.*

WILLIAM HARVEY, M.D., B.Ch., D.P.H.

BUSHEY URBAN DISTRICT

Sanitary Inspector	A. C. F. GISBORNE, Certificate, Royal Sanitary Institute and Sanitary Inspectors' Joint Board. Certificate, Inspection of Meat and other Foods. Civil Defence Instructors' Certificate, Special. Falfield 1952.
Assistant (<i>Trainee</i>)	D. JONES, National Building Certificate.

CHORLEYWOOD URBAN DISTRICT

Sanitary Inspector (and Surveyor)	W. E. HANDS, Certificate, Royal Sanitary Institute and Sanitary Inspectors' Joint Board. Certificate, Inspection of Meat and other Foods.
Additional Sanitary Inspector (and Asst. Surveyor)	F. E. JACKSON, Cert. S.J.I.B., Cert. Meat and other Foods.

RICKMANSWORTH URBAN DISTRICT

Sanitary Inspector	C. R. ALEXANDER, Certificate Royal Sanitary Institute and Sanitary Inspectors' Joint Board. Civil Defence Instructors' Certificate. Falfield 1951. Certificate, Inspector of Meat and other Foods. Civil Defence Instructors' Certificate. Falfield 1951.
Additional Sanitary Inspectors	W. HUMBER, Cert. S.I.J.B., Cert. Meat and other Foods. B. P. BATES (Resigned 5th November, 1955). Cert. S.I.J.B., Cert. Meat and other Foods.

WATFORD RURAL DISTRICT

Sanitary Inspector	S. N. GRIGG, Certificate Royal Sanitary Institute and Sanitary Inspectors' Joint Board. Certificate, Inspection of Meat and other Foods. A.R.P.S., Falfield 1941.
Additional Sanitary Inspectors	F. REEVE, Cert. S.I.J.B. A. HUGHES (Resigned 19th March, 1955). Cert. S.I.J.B., Cert., Inspection of Meat and other Foods.
	G. A. MAHONEY (Resigned 12th July, 1955). Cert. S.I.J.B., Cert., Inspection of Meat and other Foods.
	E. R. WHITMEY (Appointed 1st May, 1955). Cert. S.I.J.B.

BUSHEY

URBAN DISTRICT

General.

Area of District (land and inland water), 3,866 acres.

Highest Point—London Road at Southern boundary, 506.7ft.

Lowest Point—Near River Colne, 179.2ft.

Number of structurally separate dwellings occupied, 31st March, 1956 ; 5,357.

Rateable value at 31st March, 1956 ; £167,453.

Product (actual) of a penny-rate, £661.

Population.

(Registrar General's estimates at mid-year) :

1955	1954	1953	1952	1951	1950	1945	1939
17,940	17,710	16,550	16,520	16,060	14,930	12,880	12,930

Birth Rate.

(Live births per 1,000 of population) :

1955	1954	1953	1952	1951	1950	1945	1939
13.7	12.5	13.3	12.8	15.1	15.9	14.4	13.0

(Comparability Factor, 0.97)

Classification of Births:

	Total	...	...	...	...	Live Births		Still Births	
						M	F	M	F
	Total	...	...	...	...	138	108	4	4
	<i>Legitimate</i>	...	...	...	...	127	105	4	4
	<i>Illegitimate</i>	...	...	...	...	11	3	—	—

Infantile Mortality Rate.

(Number of deaths under age of 1 year per 1,000 live births) :

1955	1954	1953	1952	1951	1950	1947	1945	1939
20.3	36	27.1	4.7	37	8	27	43	48

Classification of Infant Deaths:

	Total	...	...	...	...	Under Age of 4 weeks		Under Age of 1 year	
						M	F	M	F
	Total	...	...	...	...	4	1	4	1
	<i>Legitimate</i>	...	...	...	...	4	1	4	1
	<i>Illegitimate</i>	...	...	...	...	—	—	—	—

Tuberculosis

The cases of Tuberculosis which were notified for the first time during the year are given in the following table according to localization of disease, sex, and, age group.

	Respiratory		Meninges, Cent. Nervous System		Other Forms	
	M	F	M	F	M	F
Under 5 years	—	—	—	—	—	—
5—14 years	—	—	—	—	—	—
15—24 ,,	1	3	—	—	1	—
25—44 ,,	2	2	—	—	—	—
45—64 ,,	1	—	—	—	—	—
65 and over	—	—	—	—	—	—
Age unknown	—	—	—	—	—	—
Total (all ages)	4	5	—	—	1	—

General Death Rate.

Vide—"The Causes of Death."

(Comparability Factor, 0.96)

THE CAUSES OF DEATH

DEATH-RATE

(Deaths per 1,000 of population)

1955

			Males	Females	1955	...	...	8.0
	All Causes ...	...	81	63	1954	...	...	8.7
1	Tuberculosis, respiratory	...	1	—	1953	...	...	8.9
2	Tuberculosis, other	...	—	—	1952	...	...	9.3
3	Syphilitic disease	...	1	—	1951	...	...	9.9
4	Diphtheria	...	—	—	1950	...	...	9.9
5	Whooping cough	...	—	—	1949	...	...	10.4
6	Meningococcal infections	...	—	—	1948	...	...	8.1
7	Acute poliomyelitis	...	—	—	1947	...	...	9.8
8	Measles	...	—	—	1946	...	...	9.1
9	Other infective and parasitic diseases	...	—	1	1945	...	...	10.6
10	Malignant neoplasm, stomach	...	2	4	1944	...	...	10.2
11	Malignant neoplasm, lung, bronchus	...	8	—	1943	...	...	11.5
12	Malignant neoplasm, breast	...	—	1	1942	...	...	9.8
13	Malignant neoplasm, uterus	...	—	1	1941	...	...	10.6
14	Other malignant and lymphatic neoplasms	...	3	5	1940	...	...	9.7
15	Leukæmia, aleukæmia	...	—	—	1939	...	...	7.9
16	Diabetes	...	—	1	1938	...	...	9.1
17	Vascular lesions of nervous system	...	12	8	1937	...	...	9.2
18	Coronary disease, angina	...	14	10	1936	...	...	8.2
19	Hypertension with heart disease	...	1	1	1935	...	...	9.5
20	Other heart disease	...	12	15	1934	...	...	8.6
21	Other circulatory disease	...	3	2				
22	Influenza	...	—	1				
23	Pneumonia	...	1	4				
24	Bronchitis	...	4	2				England and Wales
25	Other diseases of respiratory system	...	1	1	1955	...	...	11.7
26	Ulcer of stomach and duodenum	...	1	—	1954	...	...	11.3
27	Gastritis, enteritis and diarrhoea	...	—	—	1953	...	...	11.4
28	Nephritis and nephrosis	...	—	—	1952	...	...	11.3
29	Hyperplasia of prostate	...	4	—	1951	...	...	12.5
30	Pregnancy, childbirth, abortion	...	—	—	1950	...	...	11.6
31	Congenital malformations	...	1	—	1949	...	...	11.7
32	Other defined and ill-defined diseases	...	7	4	1948	...	...	10.8
33	Motor vehicle accidents	...	—	—	1947	...	...	12.0
34	All other accidents	...	4	1	1946	...	...	11.5
35	Suicide	...	1	1	1945	...	...	11.4
36	Homicide and operations of war	...	—	—	1944	...	...	11.6

NOTIFIABLE INFECTIOUS DISEASES

1955

INCIDENCE according to AGE and SEX

AGE GROUPS	Scarlet Fever		Whooping Cough		Acute poliomyelitis				Measles (Exc. Rubella)		Diphtheria	
	M	F	M	F	Paralytic	Non-paralytic	M	F	M	F	M	F
0—									4	5		
1—	1		1	3					18	17		
3—		1	6	2					39	26		
5—	3	3	6	8	1				77	88		
10—	1									1		
15—									2	2		
25 and over					1				1	1		
TOTALS	5	4	13	13	2	—	—	—	141	140	—	—

AGE GROUPS	Ac. Pneumonia		Dysentery		Smallpox		Acute encephalitis				Enteric or Typhoid Fever	
	M	F	M	F	M	F	Infective	Post-infectious	M	F	M	F
0—												
5—	1		4	3								1
15—	1	1	1	4								
45—	2											
65 and over	2	1										
TOTALS	6	2	5	9	—	—	—	—	—	—	—	1

AGE GROUPS	Paratyphoid Fevers		Erysipelas		Meningococcal infection		Food Poisoning		Other Notifiable Diseases			
	M	F	M	F	M	F	M	F	M	F	M	F
0—									Puerperal Pyrexia ...	...		71
5—									Ophthalmia Neonatorum ...	18	12	
15—									Cholera ...	—	—	
45—									Malaria ...	—	—	
65 and over				1					Plague ...	—	—	
TOTALS	—	—	—	1	—	—	—	—	Relapsing Fever	—	—	
									Typhus Fever...	—	—	

NOTIFIABLE INFECTIOUS DISEASES

1955

MONTH OF OCCURRENCE

	1	2	3	4	5	6	7	8	9	10	11	12
--	---	---	---	---	---	---	---	---	---	----	----	----

Scarlet Fever	.	1	7	.	.	.	1	.	.	.	.	.
Whooping Cough	.	.	.	7	8	5	1	1	3	1	.	.
paralytic	.	.	.	.	.	.	.	.	.	2	.	.
Ac. poliomyelitis ;												
non-paralytic												
Measles	3	19	56	62	84	38	8	4	1	1	2	3
Diphtheria												
Ac. pneumonia	.	2	.	3	1	.	.	.	.	.	.	2
Dysentery	.	6	3	1	1	.	2	.	1	.	.	.
Smallpox												
infective												
Ac. encephalitis ;												
post-infectious												
Typhoid Fever	.	1	.	.	.	.	.	.	.	.	.	.
Paratyphoid fevers												
Erysipelas	.	.	.	.	.	.	.	1	.	.	.	.
Meningococcal infn.												
Food poisoning												
Puerperal pyrexia	8	6	6	6	3	6	9	7	7	1	7	5
Ophthalmia neonat.	.	.	4	4	1	2	3	2	4	8	1	1

†

†Cholera

Malaria

Plague

Relapsing F.

Typhus F.

SANITARY CONDITIONS

HOUSING

STATISTICS

1. INSPECTION OF DWELLING HOUSES.

<i>a</i> , Total number of houses inspected (Public Health or Housing Acts)	178
<i>b</i> , Number of inspections made for the purpose	368

2. ACTION TAKEN.

Number of :—

<i>a</i> , Clearance Areas declared	Nil
<i>b</i> , Unfit houses included in <i>a</i> , above	Nil
<i>c</i> , Individual houses demolished	3
<i>d</i> , Individual houses closed	3
<i>e</i> , Parts of buildings closed	Nil
<i>f</i> , Dwellings rendered fit after :— <i>i</i> , Informal action	39
<i>ii</i> , Formal action	4

3. OVERCROWDING.

Number of :—

<i>a</i> , Cases brought forward from previous year	9
<i>b</i> , Premises found to be overcrowded during the year	5
<i>c</i> , Cases of overcrowding abated	10

4. CERTIFICATES OF DISREPAIR.

Number of :—

<i>a</i> , Certificates of Disrepair issued	Nil
<i>b</i> , Certificates of Disrepair revoked	5

5. IMPROVEMENT GRANTS.

Number of :—

<i>a</i> , Applications made	17
<i>b</i> , Grants made	9

6. NUMBER OF HOUSES AND FLATS ERECTED DURING THE YEAR.

<i>a</i> , By the Local Authority	46
<i>b</i> , By other Authorities and Organizations	63
<i>c</i> , By private persons	122

SUMMARY OF HOUSING DEFECTS.

Housing defects remedied during the year are recorded below in classified form. Work done in connection with the extermination of rats, mice, etc. is not recorded here, but under that part of the report dealing with the Prevention of Damage by Pests.

1. Site.

a, Drainage of ground unsatisfactory : 1. *b*, Outbuildings, inadequate or in bad repair : 1. *c*, Approach to back of house unsatisfactory : 2. *d*, Fencing defective : 3. *e*, Storage of refuse unsatisfactory : 13. *f*, Animals improperly kept : 1.

2. Prevention of Dampness.

a, Roof, chimney ; defective : 20. *b*, Gutters, downpipes ; defective : 12. *c*, Walls, doors, windows ; defective : 16. *d*, Damp-proof course defective : 0. *e*, Sub-floor ventilation defective : 0. *f*, Solid floor defective : 1. *g*, Soil against walls above damp-proof course : 0. (See also *a*).

3. *Lighting, Ventilation.*
a, Obstruction to light and air : 0. *b*, Window area or opening below standard : 0. *c*, Ventilation otherwise defective : 4. *d*, Artificial lighting defective : 0. (See also 8, *f*).
4. *Stability and External Repair not included under Sections 2 and 3, above* : 10.
5. *Water Supply.*
a, Water supply not satisfactory : 3. *b*, Main supply disconnected : 1.
6. *Food: Storage, Preparation and Cooking.*
a, Storage of food unsatisfactory : 1. *b*, Cooking arrangements unsatisfactory : 1. *c*, Sink unsatisfactory : 3.
7. *Washing arrangements : Disposal of Waste Water.*
a, Bath defective : 0. *b*, No bath : 6. *c*, Arrangements for water heating unsatisfactory : 8. *d*, Disposal of waste water unsatisfactory : 5.
8. *Closet accommodation : Soil Drainage.*
a, Pail closet defective : 0. *b*, Water closet, defective : 19. *c*, Drainage defective : 81. *d*, Disposal of sewage unsatisfactory 0. *e*, Approach to outside closet not protected : 0. *f*, Lighting, ventilation ; inadequate : 0.
9. *Space-Heating.*
a, Firegrate, flue ; defective : 2.
10. *Repair, Decoration, Cleanliness : internal.*
a, Internal structures defective : 26. *b*, Decoration in bad state : 3. *c*, Lack of cleanliness : 1. *d*, Infestation with bugs, etc. : 2.

THE HOUSING SURVEY.

The year 1955 will take its place among the more important years as far as the clearance of insanitary houses is concerned. In April, a detailed report was presented to the Council, covering all aspects of the problem, and including sketch plans indicating the houses which might best be dealt with by way of clearance areas. This report was considered by various Committees, and, a programme was laid down to cover the next five years.

One hundred and eleven houses were scheduled for demolition, either in clearance areas or as individual houses. A second schedule was also prepared, showing sixty-two houses that should be reinspected at the end of the five-year programme.

It was somewhat difficult to estimate how many individual unfit houses would be reconditioned. As there is little doubt that a number of premises in the second schedule will eventually be demolished, it was considered that these would offset the number of premises included in the first schedule, for demolition, which might ultimately be reconditioned.

CLEARANCE AREAS.

During the year the Bushey Urban District Sparrows Herne Clearance Area, No. 1, was purchased by the Council by agreement ; and, up to the end of the year, seven families had been rehoused. The remaining occupants are likely to be rehoused early in 1956, so that redevelopment of the site can follow. It is hoped that it will be possible to erect accommodation for old people on this site.

Preliminary inspections were made of a number of other houses, with a view to further areas being declared.

No official 'patching' has been decided upon, but one owner carried out such work to a group of houses that are likely to be included in a clearance area during the next five years.

INDIVIDUAL UNFIT HOUSES.

During the year, Nos. 165, 167 and 169, Sparrows Herne, were demolished, and Closing Orders were made under Section 10 of the Local Government (Miscellaneous Provisions) Act, 1953, in respect of Nos. 128 and 130, High Street, and No. 143, Herkomer Road.

CERTIFICATES OF DISREPAIR.

There were no applications for these certificates during the year, but five revocation certificates, following the completion of repairs, were issued. Two certificates of disrepair were still in force at the end of the year.

As far as rented property is concerned, those provisions of the Housing Repairs and Rents Act, 1954, relating to increase in rent have only resulted in the putting into 'Good repair' of a very small number of premises.

IMPROVEMENT GRANTS.

In May, 1954, the Council decided on the principle of making Improvement Grants in suitable cases. This very useful provision to assist owners to modernise their property has only been taken up by owner occupiers in Bushey. Only one owner of rented property made enquiries concerning the scheme, but so far, no formal application has been submitted. Up to the end of 1955, twenty-one formal applications for improvement grants were received. Twelve were approved, eight refused, and one is under consideration.

GENERAL REPAIRS.

Fewer occupiers complained to the Council concerning defects existing in their houses. It was, therefore, necessary in only four cases to serve Statutory Notices, and it was not necessary to carry out any work in default.

MOVEABLE DWELLINGS.

The Council's site at Eastbury Road, which is situated in the area of the Watford Rural District Council, was opened in November, 1955, and the caravans temporarily stationed at Aldenham Road, Bushey, were the first to move to the new site. Brookside, as the site at Eastbury Road is known, will accommodate seventy vans, and essential facilities are provided, including concrete roads and standings, main drainage to each standing, three sanitary blocks each consisting of one W.C. for men, one W.C. for women and a tipping point for chemical closets. Street lighting is also provided.

The majority of persons offered sites at Eastbury Road came from the Bushey Hall school site, but certain persons came from four other unsatisfactory sites in Bushey. Two of the unsatisfactory sites were cleared of vans. No further sites have been licensed; one application for a site licence for five vans was refused. Sixteen individual licences were renewed.

At the end of the year it was estimated that, in addition to the Eastbury Road site, there were one hundred and forty vans stationed in Bushey, including thirty-five on one licensed site.

The number of gypsy caravans camping from time to time along North-Western Avenue, or in the adjoining fields, has this year increased, and there is little doubt that stronger action will have to be taken to prevent these encampments from becoming permanent. A byelaw made by the County Council concerning gypsy encampments came into operation on the 1st January, 1955, and it will remain to be seen how useful this byelaw will be in requiring the gypsies to move on. At present occupiers of dwelling houses, who are within 300 yards of any encampment, seem reluctant to take action.

Inspection of Caravans—1. Bushey Urban District Council site 42. 2. Bushey Hall Road site 95. 3. Gypsy encampments 15. 4. Other caravan sites 78.

THE PROTECTION OF THE FOOD SUPPLY

FOOD CONDEMNED.

The following quantities of food were condemned during the year:—

Meat, carcase 285lbs., Meat, canned 89lbs., Sausages 14lbs., Milk, canned 41lbs., Vegetables, canned 68lbs., Fruit, canned 53lbs., Flour and Cereals 6lbs. Total 519lbs.

All this unsound food was disposed of by burying at the Council's Refuse Tip.

CARCASES AND OFFAL INSPECTED AND CONDEMNED IN WHOLE OR IN PART.

No regular slaughtering takes place within the District. No notice of any casual slaughtering has been received during the past year.

MILK SUPPLY.

There was no change in the number of premises or distributors registered by the Council in connection with the supply of milk. There are three dairies in the District and nine distributors of milk.

Twenty Special Designation licences were granted during the year as follows:—

	Dealers	Supplementary
Sterilised	...	2
Pasteurised	...	3
Tuberculin Tested	...	3

Twelve samples of designated milk were taken and submitted for examination. All passed the necessary tests.

ICE CREAM.

There are twenty-six premises registered for the sale of ice cream, and thirty-three inspections were made to these premises. The only manufacturer in the District ceased production during the year. Twenty-eight samples were taken from the various retailers, all selling pre-packed ice cream. Twenty-seven of these samples were placed in Grade 1, one in Grade 2 and none in Grades 3 and 4.

Routine sampling has now been carried out for the past six years, and it is interesting to note the improvement in the sample results that has taken place:—

Year		Grades			
		1	2	3	4
1950	...	5	1	1	1
1951	...	16	8	4	3
1952	...	18	12	3	3
1953	...	34	4	0	1
1954	...	25	2	0	0
1955	...	27	1	0	0

FOOD PREMISES

The following table sets out the number and type of food premises in the District, together with the number of inspections made :—

Type of Business	Number in District	Number of Inspections made
REGISTERED PREMISES		
Cooked meats and preserved food ...	7	6
Ice Cream retailers	26	33
Dairies	3	8
OTHER FOOD PREMISES		
Bakehouses	3	3
Butchers	9	12
Cafes and Restaurants	11	4
Canteens, factory	14	8
,, school	12	1
Fish and Chip Shops	2	5
Fishmongers	3	3
Greengrocers	11	3
Grocers, retail	24	18
,, wholesale	2	1
Hospitals and Nursing Homes ...	6	0
Hotels and Guest Houses	3	0
Public Houses	20	4
Licensed Clubs	4	0
Mobile Food Premises	6	12
Miscellaneous Premises (sweets, etc.)	6	0

It was not necessary to take any formal action to enforce the provisions of the Food and Drugs Act, or the Food Byelaws, during the year, but the Department continued, wherever possible to emphasise the need for food handlers taking every care regarding personal hygiene.

WATER SUPPLY

The Public water supply is chlorinated and adequate for the District. Four samples were taken for bacteriological examination, and these were reported as fit for drinking and domestic purposes.

As the result of the housing survey it appears that there are twenty-seven houses without an internal water supply ; most of these properties will be dealt with during the next five years under the provisions of the Housing Acts. A small group of business premises, including a transport cafe, has now been connected to the public supply. There is only one house in the District that has its own supply, and this water is drawn from a borehole.

SWIMMING POOL.

Twelve samples of water from the Bushey Swimming Pool were submitted for bacteriological examination. Eleven of these samples were reported as satisfactory, but in one case the water was unfit. The reason for this failure was fully investigated, and reports were submitted to the various Committees concerned.

The sample was taken at 3 p.m. the day before the Bath was due to be emptied, the water having been in use for the past twelve days. Free chlorine had dropped to below 0.15 p.p.m. The heavy bathing load during this longer period, with approximately 4,000 bathers, was undoubtedly the reason for the

unsatisfactory sample. This caused the Council to give consideration to the installation of a suitable filtration plant with mechanical chlorination. If it is decided to install such a plant, this cannot be put into operation during 1956, and it was, therefore, agreed to continue the present method of treatment which consists of adding the necessary chemicals daily, with daily testing of the water to ensure that the necessary residual chlorine content is maintained. Weekly samples will be submitted for bacteriological examination. In addition, it was decided to limit the number of bathers to 240 at any one time, and to change the water as soon as possible if its clarity should fall below a definite standard, or if the residual free chlorine could not be brought up to 0.5 p.p.m.

Inspections of Swimming Pools—17.

DISINFECTION AND DISINFESTATION

DISINFECTION : Number of houses disinfected	... ...	11
DISINFESTATION : Number of houses treated (Exc. rats and mice)	... ... ... ... ...	24

Two temporary dwellings were found to be infested by bed-bugs, and the necessary disinfestation work was carried out. The Department dealt with a number of insect pests, including silver fish, mosquitoes, ants, woodworm, etc., while they continued to give advice to the public where necessary.

It is interesting to record that a number of occupiers reported infestations of swarming flies (*Thaumatomyia notata*) in their premises in the autumn, all of which were satisfactorily dealt with by using an aerosol flyspray.

PREVENTION OF DAMAGE BY PESTS

The work done during the year under the Prevention of Damage by Pests Act, 1949 is recorded in the following section.

	Local Authority Depots, etc.	Dwelling Houses	Agri-cultural	All other, incl. Business & Industry	Total
1. Total No. of properties in L.A.s' district	20	4,744	24	572	5,360
2. No. of properties inspected by L.A. as a result of a, notification, b, otherwise.	a, 1 b, 2	96 278	. 6	13 1	110 287
3. No. of properties (under 2) found to be infested by Rats a, Major b, Minor, Infest.	a, . b, 3	. 120	. 1	. 7	— 131
4. No. of properties (under 2) found to be infested by Mice a, Major b, Minor, Infest.	a, . b, .	. 15	. .	. 4	— 19
5. No. of infested properties (under 3 & 4) treated by the L.A. ...	3	135	1	11	150
6. No. of notices served under Section 4 for: a, Treatment b, Structural Works	a, . b, .	. .	. .	. .	— —
7. Number of cases in which default action was taken by L.A. following issue of notice under S. 4 ; 0.					
8. Legal Proceedings, 0.					
9. Number of "block control" schemes carried out, 0.					

RODENT CONTROL IN SEWERS.

It was not possible to carry out this test baiting of sewers in September, 1955, owing to shortage of staff, but this will be done during the early part of 1956. The results of previous test-baiting have not shown any rat infestation of the sewers.

DRAINAGE, CESSPOOLS, ETC.

The last two houses in Caldecote Gardens were connected to the sewer in January, 1955. This leaves one hundred and thirteen premises drained to cesspools which are regularly emptied by the Council. Merry Hill House and farm were also connected to the main sewerage system, and the minor sewage disposal plant abandoned.

There is no change in the number of pail closets which are regularly emptied by the Council. The following statement sets out the number of drainage inspections made, and the number of obstructions cleared by the Department during the year :—

1. NEW AND ALTERED DRAINAGE SYSTEMS.

Number of inspections and tests made	449
--------------------------------------	-----	-----	-----	-----	-----

2. COUNCIL HOUSES.

(a) Number of inspections made	...	...	...	...	452
(b) Number of obstructions cleared	...	...	...	...	28
(c) Number of houses affected under (b) above	...	...	...	...	91

3. PRIVATE HOUSES.

(a) Number of obstructions cleared by Department	...	...	...	...	25
(b) Number of houses affected under (a) above	...	...	...	...	48

PUBLIC CLEANSING

REFUSE COLLECTION.

The collection of refuse in the District is carried out by contract. Vehicles used—two low-loading, with metal covers.

REFUSE DISPOSAL.

The refuse is dealt with by "controlled" tipping. There have been no complaints regarding insect infestation, but on three occasions the tip was treated following minor rat infestations.

VARIOUS INSPECTIONS WITH ACTION WHERE NECESSARY :—

Ponds, Ditches, Watercourses	...	...	...	...	...	...	28
Offensive Accumulations	...	...	...	...	...	...	8
Refuse Tips, etc.	...	...	...	...	...	...	30

THE KEEPING OF ANIMALS

PET ANIMALS ACT, 1951.

Two premises were licensed under this Act. No violation of the condition of the licences was found.

Inspections under the Act ... 2.

Other Inspections (a) Farms—piggeries	...	22
(b) General	...	9

COMPLAINTS, NOTICES, AND OTHER VISITS

During the year eighty-one complaints were received and the following figures show the number of notices served, and those complied with :—

Notices Informal, outstanding 1st January, 1955	...	...	...	62
Notices Informal, served during the year	...	...	...	49
Notices Informal, complied with during the year	...	...	...	68
Notices Statutory, outstanding 1st January, 1955	...	...	...	5
Notices Statutory, served during the year	...	...	...	3
Notices Statutory, complied with during the year	...	...	...	3
Smoke observations and visits	...	...	...	21
Council Houses	...	...	...	118
Infectious Diseases Enquiries	...	...	...	30
Private Wells	...	...	...	...

RAG FLOCK AND OTHER FILLING MATERIALS ACT, 1951

One factory is registered in accordance with the provisions of this Act, but no action was taken during the year.

ADMINISTRATION OF THE FACTORIES ACTS, 1937 and 1948.

1.—Inspections for the purposes of provisions as to health.

Premises (1)	Number on Register (3)	Number of		
		Inspections (4)	Written notices (5)	Occupiers prosecuted (6)
(i) Factories in which Sections 1, 2, 3, 4 and 6 are to be enforced by Local Authorities	3	3	—	—
(ii) Factories not included in (i) in which Section 7 is enforced by the Local Authority	61	23	—	—
(iii) Other Premises in which Section 7 is enforced by the Local Authority (excluding out-workers' premises)	4	7	—	—
TOTAL ...	68	33	—	—

2.—Cases in which defects were found.

Particulars (1)	Number of cases in which defects were found				Number of cases in which prosecutions were instituted (7)
	Found (3)	Remedied (4)	Referred To H.M. Inspector (5)	By H.M. Inspector (6)	
Want of cleanliness (S.1)	1	1	—	—	—
Overcrowding (S.2) ...	—	—	—	—	—
Unreasonable temperature (S.3)	—	—	—	—	—
Inadequate ventilation (S.4)	—	—	—	—	—
Ineffective drainage of floors (S.6)	—	—	—	—	—
Sanitary Conveniences (S.7)					
(a) insufficient	1	1	—	—	—
(b) Unsuitable or defective	2	2	—	—	—
(c) Not separate for sexes	—	—	—	—	—
Other offences against the Act (not including offences relating to Outwork)	—	—	—	—	—
TOTAL ...	4	4	—	—	—

Sections 110, 111—Outworkers, 8; Notices, etc., Nil.

CHORLEYWOOD

URBAN DISTRICT

General.

Area of District (land and inland water), 2,055 acres.

Highest Point—Near water tower at the Swillet, 410.6ft.

Lowest Point—Junction of Meadow Way and Belfry Lane, 160.3ft.

Number of structurally separate dwellings occupied at 31st March, 1956; 1,873.

Rateable value at 31st March, 1956; £70,783.

Product of a penny-rate, £275.

Population.

(Registrar General's estimates at mid-year)

1955	1954	1953	1952	1951	1950	1945	1939
5,430	4,820	4,648	4,586	4,480	4,680	3,967	3,775

Birth-Rate.

(Live births per 1,000 of population) :

1955	1954	1953	1952	1951	1950	1945	1939
15.1	13.3	11.8	10.9	12.5	8.1	13.1	9.0

(Comparability Factor, 1.11)

Classification of Births:

				Live Births		Still Births	
				M.	F.	M.	F.
Total ...	...	...	...	43	39	—	1
Legitimate	...	...	...	42	39	—	1
Illegitimate	...	...	...	1	—	—	—

Infantile Mortality Rate.

(Number of deaths under age of 1 year per 1,000 live births) :

1955	1954	1953	1952	1951	1950	1945	1939
24.4	62.5	36.4	40	0	52	19	29

Classification of Deaths:

				Under Age of 4 weeks		Under Age of 1 year	
				M.	F.	M.	F.
Total ...	...	...	...	2	—	2	—
Legitimate	...	...	...	2	—	2	—
Illegitimate	...	...	...	—	—	—	—

Tuberculosis Notifications

NEW CASES

	Respiratory		Meninges, Cent. Nervous System		Other Forms	
	M	F	M	F	M	F
Under 5 years	—	—	—	—	—	—
5—14 years	—	—	—	—	—	—
15—24 ,,	—	—	—	—	—	—
25—44 ,,	—	1	—	—	—	—
45—64 ,,	1	—	—	—	—	—
65 and over	1	—	—	—	—	—
Age unknown	—	—	—	—	—	—
Total (all ages)	2	1	—	—	—	—

General Death Rate.

Vide—Summary “Causes of Death.”

(Comparability Factor, 0.78)

THE CAUSES OF DEATH

DEATH-RATE

(Deaths per 1,000 of population)

1955

				Males	Females				
All Causes	...	...	...	30	20	1955	...	...	9.2
1	Tuberculosis, respiratory	...	...	—	—	1954	...	...	7.7
2	Tuberculosis, other	...	...	—	—	1953	...	...	10.1
3	Syphilitic disease	...	...	—	—	1952	...	...	11.5
4	Diphtheria	...	...	—	—	1951	...	...	8.5
5	Whooping cough	...	...	—	—	1950	...	...	10.0
6	Meningococcal infections	...	...	—	—	1949	...	...	11.3
7	Acute poliomyelitis	...	...	—	—	1948	...	...	9.7
8	Measles	...	...	—	—	1947	...	...	14.0
9	Other infective and parasitic diseases	...	...	—	—	1946	...	...	12.6
10	Malignant neoplasm, stomach	...	2	—	—	1945	...	...	9.3
11	Malignant neoplasm, lung, bronchus	—	—	—	—	1944	...	...	11.2
12	Malignant neoplasm, breast	...	—	2	—	1943	...	...	13.0
13	Malignant neoplasm, uterus	...	—	—	—	1942	...	...	10.7
14	Other malignant and lymphatic neoplasms	...	...	1	1	1941	...	...	10.3
15	Leukaemia, aleukaemia	...	—	—	—	1940	...	...	9.7
16	Diabetes	...	—	—	—	1939	...	...	9.6
17	Vascular lesions of nervous system	—	5	1	—	1938	...	...	9.9
18	Coronary disease, angina	...	8	2	—	1937	...	...	10.5
19	Hypertension with heart disease	...	—	1	—	1936	...	...	9.7
20	Other heart disease	...	4	7	—	1935	...	...	7.7
21	Other circulatory disease	...	—	1	1	1934	...	...	10.3
22	Influenza	...	—	—	—	<hr/>			
23	Pneumonia	...	2	1	—	England and Wales			
24	Bronchitis	...	—	—	—	1955	...	...	11.7
25	Other diseases of respiratory system	—	—	—	—	1954	...	...	11.3
26	Ulcer of stomach and duodenum	...	1	—	—	1953	...	...	11.4
27	Gastritis, enteritis and diarrhoea	...	—	1	—	1952	...	...	11.3
28	Nephritis and nephrosis	...	—	—	—	1951	...	...	12.5
29	Hyperplasia of prostate	...	—	—	—	1950	...	...	11.6
30	Pregnancy, childbirth, abortion	...	—	—	—	1949	...	...	11.7
31	Congenital malformations	...	3	—	—	1948	...	...	10.8
32	Other defined and ill-defined diseases	—	3	1	—	1947	...	...	12.0
33	Motor vehicle accidents	...	—	1	—	1946	...	...	11.5
34	All other accidents	...	—	1	—	1945	...	...	11.4
35	Suicide	...	—	—	—	1944	...	...	11.6
36	Homicide and operations of war	...	—	—	—	1943	...	...	12.1

NOTIFIABLE INFECTIOUS DISEASES

1955

INCIDENCE according to AGE and SEX

AGE GROUPS	Scarlet Fever		Whooping Cough		Acute poliomyelitis				Measles (Exc. Rubella)		Diphtheria	
					Paralytic		Non-paralytic					
	M	F	M	F	M	F	M	F	M	F	M	F
0— ...											1	
1— ...										4	2	
3— ...			1							9	9	
5— ...			1	2						24	16	
10— ...					1					1	2	
15— ...										1	1	
25 and over											1	
TOTAL ...	—	—	2	2	1	—	—	—	39	32	—	—

AGE GROUPS	Ac. Pneumonia		Dysentery		Smallpox		Acute encephalitis				Enteric or Typhoid Fever	
							Infective		Post-infectious			
	M	F	M	F	M	F	M	F	M	F	M	F
0— ...												
5— ...												
15— ...											1	
45— ...		1										
65 and over												
TOTAL ...	—	1	—	—	—	—	—	—	—	—	1	—

AGE GROUPS	Paratyphoid Fevers		Erysipelas		Meningococcal Infection		Food Poisoning		Other Notifiable Diseases			
	M	F	M	F	M	F	M	F	Puerperal Pyrexia ...	...	M	F
0— ...									Ophthalmia Neonatorum...	—	—	—
5— ...									Cholera ...	...	—	—
15— ...									Malaria ...	...	—	—
45— ...									Plague ...	...	—	—
65 and over			1						Relapsing Fever	—	—	—
TOTAL ...	—	—	1	—	—	—	—	—	Typhus Fever...	—	—	—

NOTIFIABLE INFECTIOUS DISEASES

1955

MONTH OF OCCURRENCE

	1	2	3	4	5	6	7	8	9	10	11	12
--	---	---	---	---	---	---	---	---	---	----	----	----

Scarlet Fever

Whooping Cough

3	1
---	---	---	---	---	---	---	---	---	---	---	---	---

paralytic

.	1
---	---	---	---	---	---	---	---	---	---	---	---	---

Ac. poliomyelitis ;

non-paralytic

Measles

.	.	2	5	4	5	4	1	.	13	11	26
---	---	---	---	---	---	---	---	---	----	----	----

Diphtheria

Ac. pneumonia

.	1
---	---	---	---	---	---	---	---	---	---	---	---	---

Dysentery

Smallpox

infective

Ac. encephalitis ;

post-infectious

.	1
---	---	---	---	---	---	---	---	---	---	---	---	---

Typhoid Fever

Paratyphoid fevers

Erysipelas

.	1	.	.	.
---	---	---	---	---	---	---	---	---	---	---	---	---

Meningococcal infn.

Food poisoning

Puerperal pyrexia

Ophthalmia neonat.

†

† Cholera Malaria Plague Relapsing F. Typhus F.

SANITARY CONDITIONS

HOUSING

STATISTICS

1. INSPECTION OF DWELLING HOUSES.

<i>a</i> , Total number of houses inspected (Public Health or Housing Acts)	63
<i>b</i> , Number of inspections made for the purpose	96

2. ACTION TAKEN.

Number of :—

<i>a</i> ,	Clearance Areas declared	...	...	...	...	...	...	Nil
<i>b</i> ,	Unfit houses included in <i>a</i> , above	...	...	...	...	...	...	Nil
<i>c</i> ,	Individual houses demolished	...	...	...	...	...	...	Nil
<i>d</i> ,	Individual houses closed	...	...	...	...	...	...	1
<i>e</i> ,	Parts of buildings closed	...	...	...	...	...	...	Nil
<i>f</i> ,	Dwellings rendered fit after :—							
i,	Informal action	...	...	...	...	...	...	17
ii,	Formal action	...	...	...	...	...	...	Nil

3. OVERCROWDING.

Number of :—

a, Cases brought forward from previous year Nil
b, Premises found to be overcrowded during the year Nil
c, Cases of overcrowding abated Nil

4. CERTIFICATES OF DISREPAIR.

Number of :-

a. Certificates of Disrepair issued Nil
 b. Certificates of Disrepair revoked Nil

5. IMPROVEMENT GRANTS.

Number of :—

a. Applications made 1
 b. Grants made Nil

6. NUMBER OF HOUSES AND FLATS ERECTED DURING THE YEAR.

<i>a.</i>	By the Local Authority	...	...	...	...	...	...	42
<i>b.</i>	By other Authorities and Organizations	...	...	...	...	...	...	43
<i>c.</i>	By private persons	...	...	...	...	...	...	135

SUMMARY OF HOUSING DEFECTS.

Housing defects remedied during the year are recorded below in classified form. Work done in connection with the extermination of rats, mice, etc. is not recorded here, but under that part of the report dealing with the Prevention of Damage by Pests.

1. Site.

a, Drainage of ground unsatisfactory : 4. *b*, Outbuildings, inadequate or in bad repair : 11. *c*, Approach to back of house unsatisfactory : 2. *d*, Fencing defective : 0. *e*, Storage of refuse unsatisfactory : 17. *f*, Animals improperly kept : 1.

2. Prevention of Dampness.

a, Roof, chimney ; defective : 15. *b*, Gutters, downpipes ; defective : 9
c, Walls, doors, windows ; defective : 21. *d*, Damp-proof course ;
defective : 0. *e*, Sub-floor ventilation ; defective : 0. *f*, Solid floor ;
defective : 4. *g*, Soil against walls above damp-proof course (see also
1.a) : 2.

3. *Lighting, Ventilation.*
a, Obstruction to light and air : 0. *b*, Window area or opening below standard : 0. *c*, Ventilation otherwise defective : 0. *d*, Artificial lighting defective (see also 8.c) : 0.
4. *Stability and External Repair not included under Sections 2 and 3 above* : 0.
5. *Water Supply.*
a, Water supply not satisfactory : 0. *b*, Main supply disconnected : 0.
6. *Food : Storage, Preparation and Cooking.*
a, Storage of food unsatisfactory : 0. *b*, Cooking arrangements unsatisfactory : 0. *c*. Sink unsatisfactory : 9.
7. *Washing arrangements : Disposal of Waste Water.*
a, Bath defective : 0. *b*, No bath : 0. *c*, Arrangements for water heating unsatisfactory : 11. *d*, Disposal of waste water unsatisfactory : 7.
8. *Closet accommodation : Soil Drainage.*
a, Pail closet defective : 0. *b*, Water closet defective : 11. *c*, Drainage defective : 19. *d*, Disposal of sewage unsatisfactory : 0. *e*, Approach to outside closet not protected : 0. *f*, Lighting, ventilation ; inadequate : 0.
9. *Space heating.*
a, Firegrate, flue ; defective : 16
10. *Repair, Decoration, Cleanliness : internal.*
a, Internal structure defective : 7. *b*, Decoration in bad state : 23. *c*, Lack of cleanliness : 3. *d*, Infestation with bugs, etc. : 0.

WATER SUPPLY.

The water supply of the District is adequate and chlorinated. No complaints have been received regarding the quality.

SUPERVISION OF FOOD

Under the general heading of public health work this is probably one of the most important duties of the Council, and for this purpose routine visits are made to food establishments throughout the District. The public are now taking a growing interest in food hygiene and showing keener discrimination. This is bound to have a good effect on the general standard.

SLAUGHTERING AND MEAT INSPECTION

CARCASES AND OFFAL INSPECTED AND CONDEMNED IN WHOLE OR IN PART.

		Cattle exc. Cows	Cows	Calves	Sheep Lambs	Pigs	*Horses
Number killed (if known)	...	25	—	3	48	38	—
Number inspected	...	25	—	3	48	38	—
All diseases except Tuberculosis and Cysticercosis							
Whole carcases condemned	...	—	—	—	—	—	—
Carcases of which some part or or organ was condemned	...	2	—	—	—	—	—
Tuberculosis only							
Whole carcases condemned	...	—	—	—	—	—	—
Carcases of which some part or organ was condemned	...	3	—	—	—	—	—
Cysticercosis							
Carcases of which some part or organ was condemned	...	—	—	—	—	—	—
Carcases submitted to treat- ment by refrigeration	...	—	—	—	—	—	—

*For human consumption

Number of Slaughterhouses in operation in District: Public, —, Private, 1.

MILK SUPPLY, 1955.

The following Special Designation Licences were issued during the year :—

	Dealers	Supplementary
Tuberculin Tested	...	4
Pasteurised	...	4
Sterilized	...	2

Eighteen inspections were made during the year but it was not found necessary to serve any notices. One complaint was received regarding a dirty milk bottle and a strong warning was given to the Dairy concerned.

FOOD AND DRUGS ACT, 1938

ICE CREAM.

There are no premises registered for the manufacture of ice cream.
It was not found necessary to serve any notices.

MOBILE FOOD VANS.

Three mobile food vans continue to trade in the District, and all have the name and address of the owner conspicuously displayed on the vehicle.

INSPECTION OF OTHER FOODS.

A summary of food condemned at various shop premises and canteens during the year is set out below :—

Meat, canned 7lbs., Meat Pies 32, Fish 1 tin, Fruit 11 tins, Milk 1 tin, Vegetables 2 tins.

FOOD PREMISES.

The following table sets out the number and type of food premises in the District, together with the number of inspections made :—

FOOD PREMISES

The following table sets out the number and type of food premises in the district, together with the number of inspections made :—

Type of Businesses	Number in District	Number of Inspections made
REGISTERED PREMISES		
Ice Cream retailers	7	11
Dairies	4	18
OTHER FOOD PREMISES		
Bakehouses	1	3
Butchers	4	9
Canteens, factory	1	3
,, school	2	5
Fishmongers	1	2
Greengrocers	2	2
Grocers, Retail	8	13
Hotels and Guest Houses	1	2
Public Houses	8	13
Licensed Clubs	4	4
Mobile Food Premises	3	5
Miscellaneous Premises (sweets, etc.)	6	8

DISINFECTION (1), DISINFESTATION (2)

Number of cases (1) 4 ; (2) 0. Total 4.

Eighteen complaints were received regarding wasps, and 29 nests were destroyed.

Rodent Control.

Prevention of Damage by Pests Act, 1949

	Local Authority Depots, etc.	Dwelling Houses	Agri-cultural	All other, incl. Business & Industry	Total
1. Total No. of properties in L.A.s' district	3	1,873	8	112	1,996
2. No. of properties inspected by L.A. as a result a, of notification, b, otherwise.	a, b, 3	23 36	3	17	23 59
3. No. of properties (under 2) found to be infested by Rats a, Major b, Minor, infest.	a, b,				— 25
4. No. of properties (under 2) found to be infested by Mice a, Major b, Minor, infest.	a, b,				— —
5. No. of infested properties (under 3 & 4) treated by the L.A. ...		25			25
6. No. of notices served under Section 4 for: a, Treatment b, Structural Works	a, b,				— —

Number of cases in which default action was taken by L.A. following issue of notice under S. 4; 0.

8. Legal Proceedings, 0.
9. Number of "block control" schemes carried out, 0.

SEWER CONTROL.

A programme of test baiting covering 10% of the manholes in the sewerage system was carried out, and I am pleased to report that no infestation was revealed. An exemption from testing has been granted until January, 1958, by the Ministry of Agriculture, Fisheries and Food.

Public Cleansing.

Direct Labour. Vehicles Employed—Two motor vehicles with sliding metal covers. Disposal by Controlled Tipping. Every effort has been made to maintain a 7-day collection service.

ADMINISTRATION OF THE FACTORIES ACTS, 1937 and 1948.

1.—Inspections for the purposes of provisions as to health.

Premises (1)	Number on Register (3)	Number of		
		Inspections (4)	Written notices (5)	Occupiers prosecuted (6)
(i) Factories in which Sections 1, 2, 3, 4 and 6 are to be enforced by Local Authorities	9	10	—	—
(ii) Factories not included in (i) in which Section 7 is enforced by the Local Authority	15	19	—	—
(iii) Other Premises in which Section 7 is enforced by the Local Authority (excluding out-workers' premises)	—	—	—	—
TOTAL ...	24	29	—	—

2.—Cases in which defects were found.

Particulars (1)	Number of cases in which defects were found				Number of cases in which prosecutions were instituted (7)
	Found (3)	Remedied (4)	Referred To H.M. Inspector (5)	By H.M. Inspector (6)	
Want of cleanliness (S.1) ...	1	1	—	—	—
Overcrowding (S.2) ...	—	—	—	—	—
Unreasonable temperature (S.3)	—	—	—	—	—
Inadequate ventilation (S.4)	—	—	—	—	—
Ineffective drainage of floors (S.6)	—	—	—	—	—
Sanitary Conveniences (S.7)	—	—	—	—	—
(a) insufficient	—	—	—	—	—
(b) Unsuitable or defective	2	1	—	—	—
(c) Not separate for sexes	—	—	—	—	—
Other offences (not including offences relating to Outwork)	—	—	—	—	—
TOTAL ...	3	2	—	—	—

Outworkers S.110 (i) (c) :—Number, 1. Notices, etc., Nil.

RICKMANSWORTH

URBAN DISTRICT

General.

Area (land and inland water), 7,639 acres.

Number of separately rated dwellings at 31st March, 1956; 8,026.

Rateable value at 31st March, 1956; £275,686.

Product of a penny-rate at 31st March, 1956; £1,075.

Population.

(Registrar General's estimates at mid-year) :

1955	1954	1953	1952	1951	1950	1945	1939
26,180	25,820	25,360	25,180	25,310	24,980	21,870	19,930

Birth-Rate.

(Live births per 1,000 of population) :

1955	1954	1953	1952	1951	1950	1945	1939
13.6	12.5	13.2	12.3	13.6	15.8	15.3	18.8

(Comparability Factor, 1.03)

Classification of Births:

	Total	...	...	...	...	Live Births.		Still Births.	
						M.	F.	M.	F.
	Total	...	...	...	...	185	171	2	3
	Legitimate	...	...	...	...	177	169	2	2
	Illegitimate	...	...	...	...	8	2	—	1

Infantile Mortality Rate.

(Number of deaths under age of 1 year per 1,000 live births) :

1955	1954	1953	1952	1951	1950	1945	1939
11.2	21.7	11.5	6.5	14	25	27	32

Classification of Infant Deaths:

	Total	...	...	...	...	Under Age of 4 weeks		Under Age of 1 year	
						M.	F.	M.	F.
	Total	...	...	...	...	2	1	3	1
	Legitimate	...	...	...	...	2	1	3	1
	Illegitimate	...	...	...	...	—	—	—	—

Tuberculosis

The cases of Tuberculosis which were notified for the first time during the year are given in the following table according to localization of disease, sex, and age group.

	Respiratory		Meninges, Cent. Nervous System		Other Forms	
	M	F	M	F	M	F
Under 5 years	—	—	—	1	—	—
5—14 years	1	—	—	—	—	—
15—24 ,,	2	1	—	—	—	—
25—44 ,,	2	5	—	—	—	—
45—64 ,,	2	3	—	—	—	—
65 and over	1	—	—	—	—	—
Age unknown	—	—	—	—	—	—
Total (all ages)	8	9	—	1	—	—

General Death Rate.

Vide—Summary “ Causes of Death.” (Comparability Factor, 1.11)

THE CAUSES OF DEATH

1955

DEATH-RATE

(Deaths per 1,000 of population)

	All Causes ...	... ...	... ...	... ...	Males 123	Females 117	1955	... ...	... ...	9.2
1	Tuberculosis, respiratory	...	...	...	2	—	1954	...	...	9.0
2	Tuberculosis, other	...	...	...	—	—	1953	...	...	8.2
3	Syphilitic disease	...	...	...	—	—	1952	...	...	8.1
4	Diphtheria	...	...	...	—	—	1951	...	...	9.1
5	Whooping cough	...	...	...	—	—	1950	...	...	8.9
6	Meningococcal infections	...	...	...	—	—	1949	...	...	9.3
7	Acute poliomyelitis	...	...	...	1	—	1948	...	...	8.5
8	Measles	...	...	...	—	—	1947	...	...	9.9
9	Other infective and parasitic diseases	...	...	...	—	1	1946	...	...	8.1
10	Malignant neoplasm, stomach	...	...	...	4	3	1945	...	...	10.1
11	Malignant neoplasm, lung, bronchus	...	...	...	8	2	1944	...	...	9.8
12	Malignant neoplasm, breast	...	...	...	—	7	1943	...	...	10.1
13	Malignant neoplasm, uterus	...	...	...	—	1	1942	...	...	8.7
14	Other malignant and lymphatic neoplasms	...	...	...	16	9	1941	...	...	8.5
15	Leukaemia, aleukaemia	...	...	...	1	1	1940	...	...	8.3
16	Diabetes	...	...	...	—	—	1939	...	...	8.5
17	Vascular lesions of nervous system	...	...	...	7	17	1938	...	...	7.9
18	Coronary disease, angina	...	...	...	21	14	1937	...	...	6.7
19	Hypertension with heart disease	...	...	...	6	6	1936	...	...	8.6
20	Other heart disease	...	...	...	14	27	1935	...	...	10.0
21	Other circulatory disease	...	...	...	6	4	1934	...	...	9.2
22	Influenza	...	...	...	1	1				
23	Pneumonia	...	...	...	7	5				
24	Bronchitis	...	...	...	6	2				
25	Other diseases of respiratory system	...	...	...	—	—	
26	Ulcer of stomach and duodenum	...	...	...	3	1	1955	...	...	11.7
27	Gastritis, enteritis and diarrhoea	...	...	...	—	1	1954	...	...	11.3
28	Nephritis and nephrosis	...	...	...	1	—	1953	...	...	11.4
29	Hyperplasia of prostate	...	...	...	3	—	1952	...	...	11.3
30	Pregnancy, childbirth, abortion	...	...	...	—	1	1951	...	...	12.5
31	Congenital malformations	...	...	...	—	—	1950	...	...	11.6
32	Other defined and ill-defined diseases	...	...	...	9	10	1949	...	...	11.7
33	Motor vehicle accidents	...	...	...	3	2	1948	...	...	10.8
34	All other accidents	...	...	...	3	2	1947	...	...	12.0
35	Suicide	...	...	...	1	—	1946	...	...	11.5
36	Homicide and operations of war	...	...	...	—	—	1945	...	...	11.4
							1944	...	...	11.6

NOTIFIABLE INFECTIOUS DISEASES

1955

INCIDENCE according to AGE and SEX

AGE GROUPS	Scarlet Fever		Whooping Cough		Acute poliomyelitis				Measles (Exc. Rubella)		Diphtheria	
	M	F	M	F	M	F	M	F	M	F	M	F
0— ...									2	4		
1— ...			3						32	42		
3— ...		1	3						48	46		
5— ...		1	1	1					156	145		
10— ...					1				4	2		
15— ...	1						1		1	2		
25 and over					1				2	3		
TOTAL ...	1	2	7	1	2	1	—	—	245	244	—	—

AGE GROUPS	Ac. Pneumonia		Dysentery		Smallpox		Acute encephalitis				Enteric or Typhoid Fever	
	M	F	M	F	M	F	M	F	M	F	M	F
0— ...				1								
5— ...			1									
15— ...		1		2								
45— ...		1										
65 and over												
TOTAL ...	—	2	2	2	—	—	—	—	—	—	—	—

AGE GROUPS	Paratyphoid Fevers		Erysipelas		Meningococcal infection		Food Poisoning		Other Notifiable Diseases			
	M	F	M	F	M	F	M	F	Puerperal Pyrexia ...	M	F	
0— ...									... Ophthalmia Neonatorum ...	...	1	
5— ...				1				1	Cholera ...	—	—	
15— ...									Malaria ...	—	—	
45— ...									Plague ...	—	—	
65 and over									Relapsing Fever	—	—	
TOTAL ...	—	—	—	1	—	—	1	—	Typhus Fever...	—	—	

NOTIFIABLE INFECTIOUS DISEASES

1955

MONTH OF OCCURRENCE

	1	2	3	4	5	6	7	8	9	10	11	12
--	---	---	---	---	---	---	---	---	---	----	----	----

Scarlet Fever	.	.	.	1	.	1	1	.	.	.	.	.
Whooping Cough	.	.	3	2	.	.	1	.	1	1	.	.
paralytic	.	.	.	1	.	.	.	2	.	.	.	.
Ac. poliomyelitis ; non-paralytic												
Measles	2	1	7	47	9	10	20	8	6	78	183	118
Diphtheria												
Ac. pneumonia	.	.	1	.	.	.	.	.	.	.	.	1
Dysentery	.	.	1	1	.	.	1	.	.	.	1	.
Smallpox												
infective												
Ac. encephalitis ; post-infectious												
Typhoid Fever												
Paratyphoid fevers												
Erysipelas	.	.	.	.	.	.	1	.	.	.	.	.
Meningococcal infn.												
Food poisoning	.	.	.	.	.	.	.	.	1	.	.	.
Puerperal pyrexia	.	1	.	.	.	.	.	.	.	.	.	.
Ophthalmia neonat.												
†												

† Cholera

Malaria

Plague

Relapsing F.

Typhus F.

SANITARY CONDITIONS

HOUSING

STATISTICS

1. INSPECTION OF DWELLING HOUSES.

<i>a,</i> Total number of houses inspected (Public Health or Housing Acts)	289
<i>b,</i> Number of inspections made for the purpose	952

2. ACTION TAKEN.

Number of :—

<i>a,</i> Clearance Areas declared	—
<i>b,</i> Unfit houses included in <i>a</i> , above	—
<i>c,</i> Individual houses demolished	4
<i>d,</i> Individual houses closed	3
<i>e,</i> Parts of buildings closed	—
<i>f,</i> Dwellings rendered fit after :—	
<i>i,</i> Informal action	216
<i>ii,</i> Formal action	8

3. OVERCROWDING.

Number of :—

<i>a,</i> Cases brought forward from previous year	4
<i>b,</i> Premises found to be overcrowded during the year	2
<i>c,</i> Cases of overcrowding abated	1

4. CERTIFICATES OF DISREPAIR.

Number of :—

<i>a,</i> Certificates of Disrepair issued	—
<i>b,</i> „ „ „ revoked	—

5. IMPROVEMENT GRANTS.

Number of :—

<i>a,</i> Applications made	21
<i>b,</i> Grants made	19

6. NUMBER OF HOUSES AND FLATS ERECTED DURING THE YEAR.

<i>a,</i> By the Local Authority	50
<i>b,</i> By other Authorities and Organizations	83
<i>c,</i> By private persons	92

SUMMARY OF HOUSING DEFECTS.

Housing defects remedied during the year are recorded below in classified form. Work done in connection with the extermination of rats, mice, etc. is not recorded here, but under that part of the report dealing with the Prevention of Damage by Pests.

1. Site.

a, Drainage of ground unsatisfactory : 0. *b,* Outbuildings, inadequate or in bad repair : 1. *c,* Approach to back of house unsatisfactory : 3. *d,* Fencing defective : 0. *e,* Storage of refuse unsatisfactory : 64. *f,* Animals improperly kept : 1.

2. Prevention of Dampness.

a, Roof, chimney ; defective : 23. *b,* Gutters, downpipes ; defective : 3. *c,* Walls, doors, windows ; defective : 11. *d,* Damp-proof course defective : 2. *e,* Sub-floor ventilation defective : 2. *f,* Solid floor defective : 0. *g,* Soil against walls above damp-proof course : 0. (See also 1.a).

3. *Lighting, Ventilation.*
 - a*, Obstruction to light and air : 1. *b*, Window area or opening below standard : 2. *c*, Ventilation otherwise defective : 0. *d*, Artificial lighting defective : 0. (See also 8, f).
4. *Stability and External Repair not included under Sections 2 and 3 above* : 8.
5. *Water Supply.*
 - a*, Water supply not satisfactory : 1. *b*, Main supply disconnected : 0.
6. *Food Storage, Preparation and Cooking.*
 - a*, Storage of food unsatisfactory : 0. *b*, Cooking arrangements unsatisfactory : 2. *c*, Sink unsatisfactory : 3.
7. *Washing arrangements : Disposal of Waste Water.*
 - a*, Bath defective : 0. *b*, No bath : 0. *c*, Arrangements for water heating unsatisfactory : 0. *d*, Disposal of waste water unsatisfactory : 6.
8. *Closet accommodation : Soil Drainage.*
 - a*, Pail closet defective : 0. *b*, Water closet defective : 3. *c*, Drainage defective : 104. *d*, Disposal of sewage unsatisfactory : 3. *e*, Approach to outside closet not protected : 0. *f*, Lighting, ventilation ; inadequate : 0.
9. *Space Heating.*
 - a*, Firegrate, flue ; defective : 2.
10. *Repair, Decoration, Cleanliness : internal.*
 - a*, Internal structures defective : 23. *b*, Decoration in bad state : 5. Lack of cleanliness : 0. *d*, Infestation with bugs, etc. : 1.

During the year the inspection and recording of all the older houses in the District was completed and the results submitted to the Council. The survey disclosed that 243 houses were not repairable at a reasonable cost and the Council forwarded this figure to the Ministry of Housing and Local Government in accordance with Section 1 of the Housing Repairs and Rents Act, 1954. Whether this total can be dealt with in the period of five years must, to a large extent, depend upon the houses available for rehousing purposes.

A proportion of Council houses constructed is allocated for rehousing resulting from slum clearance and at the time this report was prepared it was expected that one fifth of the houses included in the slum clearance programme would be demolished or closed by the end of August, 1956.

Towards the end of the year a start was made on a systematic inspection of houses which could be repaired at reasonable cost. Some difficulties were experienced with owners and agents at the outset but it was later found that in most cases work to make the houses fit for habitation could generally be secured without the service of statutory notices.

Steady progress was made on works of improvement and nineteen applications were approved. Most of the applicants were owner-occupiers but little progress is being made to arrest the decline in the older tenanted houses by improvement grants.

MOVEABLE DWELLINGS, CARAVANS

The majority of the moveable dwellings in the District are on single sites, and are licensed. There are two licensed sites for fifteen, and three, dwellings respectively ; the total number of dwellings at the end of the year was fifty-one. No special problems were encountered.

THE PROTECTION OF THE FOOD SUPPLY

SUMMARY OF CONDEMNED FOOD.

Meat 292lbs., Meat, canned 195lbs., Sausages 12lbs., Fish 246lbs., Fish, canned 32lbs., Soup, canned 4lbs., Milk, canned 15lbs., Cheese 14lbs., Vegetables, canned 66lbs., Fruit, canned 79lbs., Dried Fruit 24lbs., Preserves 66lbs., Confectionery 96lbs.

METHOD OF DISPOSAL OF CONDEMNED FOOD.

All food was taken to the Council's refuse disposal tip.

SLAUGHTER HOUSES.

During 1954 two applications were received for permission to use premises as private slaughterhouses.

One in respect of premises at 134 Watford Road, Croxley Green, was approved and this expired on the 30th June, 1955. No application for renewal was received. The second application was in respect of an old slaughterhouse at 251 Uxbridge Road, Mill End, and this was refused but allowed on appeal to Quarter Sessions. After extensive alterations to the building a licence was issued on the 1st November, 1955, but only three pigs were slaughtered during the remainder of that year.

CARCASES AND OFFAL INSPECTED AND CONDEMNED IN WHOLE OR IN PART.

	Cattle exc. Cows	Cows	Calves	Sheep Lambs	Pigs	Horses
Number killed (if known)	...	—	—	—	3	—
Number inspected	...	—	—	—	3	—

NO carcases or offal were condemned in whole or in part.

MILK SUPPLY.

Number of persons registered as Distributors	...	10
Number of premises registered as Dairies	...	8
Number of Dealer's (Pasteuriser's) Licences	...	1
Number of Dealer's Licences to use the special designations :—		
Pasteurised	...	6
Tuberculin Tested	...	6
Sterilised	...	5
Number of Supplementary Licences* to use the special designations :—		
Pasteurised	...	10
Tuberculin Tested	...	10
Sterilised	...	5

Twenty-five samples were taken for bacteriological examination and all reached the required standard.

* for Dealers whose premises are outside the District.

Inspections of Dairies, 12 . Notices, 0.

ICE CREAM.

There are now no manufacturers of ice cream in the District, but forty-two premises were registered for the sale of ice cream. The suppliers are large manufacturers and the thirty-five samples taken conformed to Provisional Grade 1 standard.

FOOD PREMISES

The following table sets out the number and type of food premises in the District, together with the number of inspections made :—

<i>Types of Food Premises</i>	<i>Nos.</i>	<i>Inspections</i>
Bakehouses	8	26
Bread and Pastry Purveyors ...	16	37
Butchers	17	84
Confectioners (Sweets)	25	38
Fishmongers	7	17
Fish Fryers	3	7
Greengrocers	16	33
Grocers	44	107
Ice Cream Purveyors	47	67
Licensed Premises	33	92
Milk Purveyors	6	14
Restaurants and Cafes	39	64
Canteens, factory	16	20
„ school	17	31

Six hundred and thirty-seven inspections of food premises were made, and generally, the premises and food handling were found to be satisfactory. Sixteen informal notices were served during the year ; fifteen notices were complied with.

WATER SUPPLY

The Rickmansworth and Uxbridge Valley Water Company supply the greater part of the area : the Colne Valley Water Company supply a relatively small number of houses in the Eastbury area. A satisfactory sample from each supply was taken during the year.

One factory and two camping sites have shallow bores and sixty-five samples were taken.

SWIMMING POOL.

The Ebury Road Open-air Baths are now owned by the Council. The water supply is by bore and electric pump. Chlorination apparatus is installed and frequent checks are made by the attendants and by this department.

Nine samples were taken for bacteriological examination at fortnightly intervals during the season and all were reported to be satisfactory.

SHOPS ACT, 1950

The duties under this Act were transferred to this Authority on the 17th June, 1954.

There are 270 shops within the Urban District and during the year 614 inspections were made. Seventy-two informal notices were served and forty-five complied with.

DISINFECTION AND DISINFESTATION

DISINFECTION : Number of houses disinfected	... ...	10
DISINFESTATION : Number of houses treated (Exc. rats and mice)	... , ... , ... , ... , ...	12

Thirty-six complaints were received regarding wasps and appropriate action was taken.

PREVENTION OF DAMAGE BY PESTS

The work done during the year under the Prevention of Damage by Pests Act, 1949, is recorded in the following section.

	1 Local Authority Depots, etc.	2 Dwelling Houses	3 All other, incl. Business & Industry	4 Total cols. 1, 2, 3	5 Agri- cultural
1. Total No. of properties in L.A.s' district	24	7,950	605	8,579	20
2. No. of properties inspected by L.A. as a result of a, Notification, b, Survey under Act, c, otherwise	a, . b, 24 c, 31	171 148 1,563	38 53 504	209 225 2,098	. 16 45
3. No. of properties (under 2) found to be infested by rats (a) Major (b) Minor, infest	a, 1 b, 6	3 160	6 33	10 199	1 . .
4. No. of properties (under 2) found to be infested by mice (a) Major (b) Minor, infest	a, . b, .	.	.	.	. .
5. No. of infested properties (under 3 & 4) treated by the L.A. ...	7	175	51	233	2
6. No. of notices served under Section 4 for: a, Treatment b, Structural Works	a, . b, .	.	.	.	. .

7. Number of cases in which default action was taken by L.A. following issue of notice under S. 4 ; 0.
8. Legal proceedings, 0.
9. Number of "block control" schemes carried out, 60.

RODENT CONTROL IN SEWERS.

As the test-baiting of the sewers in the District during recent years has shown no evidence of rats, this work was not considered by the Ministry to be necessary during 1955.

PUBLIC CLEANSING

Direct labour scheme. Disposal by controlled tipping. Salvage of paper scheme in operation.

THE KEEPING OF ANIMALS

PET ANIMALS ACT, 1951.

Number of licences to keep Pet Shops	3
Offences against Act	0

ADMINISTRATION OF THE FACTORIES ACTS, 1937 and 1948.

1.—Inspections for the purposes of provisions as to health.

Premises (1)	Number on Register (3)	Number of		
		Inspections (4)	Written notices (5)	Occupiers prosecuted (6)
(i) Factories in which Sections 1, 2, 3, 4 and 6 are to be enforced by Local Authorities	10	27	1	—
(ii) Factories not included in (i) in which Section 7 is enforced by the Local Authority	76	232	10	—
(iii) Other Premises in which Section 7 is enforced by the Local Authority, (excluding out-workers' premises)	—	—	—	—
TOTAL ...	86	259	11	—

2.—Cases in which defects were found.

Particulars (1)	Number of cases in which defects were found				Number of cases in which prosecutions were instituted (7)
	Found (3)	Remedied (4)	Referred To H.M. Inspector (5)	By H.M. Inspector (6)	
Want of cleanliness (S.1) ...	1	1	—	—	—
Overcrowding (S.2) ...	—	—	—	—	—
Unreasonable temperature (S.3)	—	—	—	—	—
Inadequate ventilation (S.4)	2	2	—	—	—
Ineffective drainage of floors (S.6)	—	—	—	—	—
Sanitary Conveniences (S.7) (a) insufficient ...	—	—	—	—	—
(b) Unsuitable or defective	3	2	—	—	—
(c) Not separate for sexes	—	—	—	—	—
Other offences (not including offences relating to Homework)	7	6	—	—	—
TOTAL ...	13	11	—	—	—

Sections 110, 111—Outworkers 57: Notices, etc., Nil.

WATFORD

RURAL DISTRICT

General.

Area (land and inland water). 18,179 acres.

Civil Parishes—Abbots Langley, 5,558.9; Aldenham, 5,842; Sarratt, 4,587.4; Watford Rural, 2,190.7; acres.

Number of separately rated dwellings at 31st March, 1956; 13,856.

Rateable value at 31st March, 1956; £381,662.

Sum represented by a penny-rate; £1,495.

Population.

(Registrar General's estimates at mid-year) :

1955	1954	1953	1952	1951	1950	1945	1939
51,100	48,560	44,800	43,340	40,150	34,160	20,370	20,280

Birth-Rate.

(Live births per 1,000 of population) :

1955	1954	1953	1952	1951	1950	1945	1939
14.9	15.6	16.2	16.5	17.0	15.4	17.2	13.9

(Comparability Factor, .93)

Classification of Births:

Total	...	...	...	Live Births		Still Births	
				M.	F.	M.	F.
Total	...	...	...	384	376	7	6
Legitimate	...	...	...	367	366	6	6
Illegitimate	...	...	...	17	10	1	—

Infantile Mortality Rate.

(Number of deaths under age of 1 year per 1,000 live births) :

1955	1954	1953	1952	1951	1950	1945	1939
11.8	22.4	24.8	9.8	29	15	26	56

Classification of Deaths:

Total	...	...	...	...	Under Age of 4 weeks		Under Age of 1 year	
					M.	F.	M.	F.
Total	...	...	...	...	5	2	6	3
Legitimate	...	...	...	...	5	2	6	3
Illegitimate	...	...	...	...	—	—	—	—

Tuberculosis

The cases of Tuberculosis which were noted for the first time during the year are given in the following table according to localization of disease, sex, and age group.

	Respiratory		Meninges, Cent. Nervous System		Other Forms	
	M	F	M	F	M	F
Under 5 years	1	2	—	—	—	—
5—14 years	2	4	—	—	—	1
15—24 ,,	2	7	—	—	—	1
25—44 ,,	11	12	—	—	—	—
45—64 ,,	6	2	—	—	—	—
65 and over	3	—	—	—	—	—
Age unknown	—	—	—	—	—	—
Total (all ages)	25	27	—	—	—	2

General Death Rate.

Vide—Summary “Causes of Death.”

(Comparability Factor, 1.27)

NOTIFIABLE INFECTIOUS DISEASES

1955

INCIDENCE according to AGE and SEX

AGE GROUPS	Scarlet Fever		Whooping Cough		Acute poliomyelitis				Measles (Exc. Rubella)		Diphtheria	
	M	F	M	F	Paralytic	Non-paralytic	M	F	M	F	M	F
0— ...			3	3					11	26		
1— ...	3	1	4	10				1	113	88		
3— ...	4	4	5	12	1				120	110		
5— ...	17	6	24	12	1	1	3		242	206		
10— ...	2	1		2	1		1		2	4		
15— ...									1			
25 and over	1		1	2	2		2		1	2		
TOTAL ...	27	12	37	41	5	1	6	1	490	436	—	—

AGE GROUPS	Ac. Pneumonia		Dysentery		Smallpox		Acute encephalitis				Enteric or Typhoid Fever	
	M	F	M	F	M	F	Infective	Post-infectious	M	F	M	F
0— ...	1		1	4								
5— ...	3	2	4	1								
15— ...	4		2	2							1	
45— ...	3	5		1								
65 and over	4	7		1								
TOTAL ...	15	14	7	9	—	—	—	—	1	—	—	—

AGE GROUPS	Paratyphoid Fevers		Erysipelas		Meningococcal infection		Food Poisoning		Other Notifiable Diseases			
	M	F	M	F	M	F	M	F	Puerperal Pyrexia ...	M	F	
0— ...							1	2	... ...	...	2	
5— ...							6	6	Ophthalmia Neonatorum...	1	1	
15— ...				1			2	1	Cholera	—	—	
45— ...			1				1	1	Malaria	—	—	
65 and over			1						Plague	—	—	
TOTAL ...	—	—	2	1	—	—	10	10	Relapsing Fever	—	—	
									Typhus Fever...	—	—	

NOTIFIABLE INFECTIOUS DISEASES

1955

MONTH OF OCCURRENCE

	1	2	3	4	5	6	7	8	9	10	11	12
Scarlet Fever	2	1	2	7	6	6	2	.	1	5	6	1
Whooping Cough	8	11	19	20	5	1	.	4	2	3	1	4
paralytic	.	.	.	.	.	1	2	1	2	.	.	.
Ac. poliomyelitis ;												
non-paralytic	.	.	.	.	.	.	.	1	2	2	1	1
Measles	41	122	204	171	40	74	78	68	5	7	40	76
Diphtheria												
Ac. pneumonia	8	5	3	9	2	.	1	.	.	1	.	.
Dysentery	.	.	.	.	2	7	.	.	1	2	.	4
Smallpox												
infective												
Ac. encephalitis ;												
post-infectious	.	.	.	.	.	1	.	.	.	.	.	.
Typhoid Fever												
Paratyphoid fevers												
Erysipelas	.	.	.	.	.	1	.	.	1	.	.	1
Meningococcal infn.												
Food poisoning	.	.	2	2	3	10	.	2	.	.	.	1
Puerperal pyrexia	.	.	.	.	.	.	.	1	1	.	.	.
Ophthalmia neonat.	.	.	.	.	.	.	.	2	.	.	.	.
†												
	† Cholera	Malaria	Plague	Relapsing F.	Typhus F.							

1955

THE CAUSES OF DEATH

DEATH-RATE

(Deaths per 1,000 of population)

				Males	Females	1955	...	...	8.4
	All Causes ...	...	...	181	250	1955	...	...	8.4
1	Tuberculosis, respiratory	...	...	8	2	1954	...	...	8.7
2	Tuberculosis, other	...	...	—	1	1953	...	...	8.5
3	Syphilitic disease	...	...	1	1	1952	...	...	6.8
4	Diphtheria	...	...	—	—	1951	...	...	7.1
5	Whooping cough	...	...	—	—	1950	...	...	6.7
6	Meningococcal infections	...	...	—	—	1949	...	...	7.9
7	Acute poliomyelitis	...	...	1	—	1948	...	...	8.3
8	Measles	...	...	—	—	1947	...	...	11.3
9	Other infective and parasitic diseases	...	...	—	—	1946	...	...	10.1
10	Malignant neoplasm, stomach	...	6	4	—	1945	...	...	9.9
11	Malignant neoplasm, lung, bronchus	...	5	2	—	1944	...	...	9.3
12	Malignant neoplasm, breast	...	1	9	—	1943	...	...	9.1
13	Malignant neoplasm, uterus	...	—	1	—	1942	...	...	9.6
14	Other malignant and lymphatic neoplasms	...	12	26	—	1941	...	...	10.0
15	Leukaemia, aleukaemia	...	3	2	—	1940	...	...	10.1
16	Diabetes	...	1	—	—	1939	...	...	8.8
17	Vascular lesions of nervous system	...	20	38	—	1938	...	...	7.9
18	Coronary disease, angina	...	26	22	—	1937	...	...	10.6
19	Hypertension with heart disease	...	1	11	—	1936	...	...	8.3
20	Other heart disease	...	23	64	—	1935	...	...	8.7
21	Other circulatory disease	...	11	8	—	1934	...	...	8.6
22	Influenza	...	—	5	—				
23	Pneumonia	...	7	14	—				
24	Bronchitis	...	10	4	—				
25	Other diseases of respiratory system	...	2	2	England and Wales	1955	...	...	11.7
26	Ulcer of stomach and duodenum	...	3	2		1954	...	...	11.3
27	Gastritis, enteritis and diarrhoea	...	—	1		1953	...	...	11.4
28	Nephritis and nephrosis	...	2	1		1952	...	...	11.3
29	Hyperplasia of prostate	...	2	—		1951	...	...	12.5
30	Pregnancy, childbirth, abortion	...	—	—		1950	...	...	11.6
31	Congenital malformations	...	3	1		1949	...	...	11.7
32	Other defined and ill-defined diseases	...	20	20		1948	...	...	10.8
33	Motor vehicle accidents	...	3	1		1947	...	...	12.0
34	All other accidents	...	7	6		1946	...	...	11.5
35	Suicide	...	2	2		1945	...	...	11.4
36	Homicide and operations of war	...	1	—		1944	...	...	11.6

SANITARY CONDITIONS

HOUSING

STATISTICS

1. INSPECTION OF DWELLING HOUSES.

a,	Total number of houses inspected (Public Health or Housing Acts)	694
b,	Number of inspections made for the purpose	922

2. ACTION TAKEN.

Number of :—

a,	Clearance Areas declared	...	...	...	...	...	...	0
b,	Unfit houses included in a, above	...	...	...	...	...	...	0
c,	Individual houses demolished	...	...	...	...	...	...	15
d,	Individual houses closed	...	...	...	...	...	...	4
e,	Parts of buildings closed	...	...	...	...	...	...	0
f,	Dwellings rendered fit after :—							
	i, Informal action	...	...	...	...	...	...	100
	ii, Formal action	...	...	...	...	...	...	0

3. OVERCROWDING.

Number of :—

a,	Cases brought forward from previous year	...	...	...	...	...	0
b,	Premises found to be overcrowded during the year	...	...	...	...	...	0
c,	Cases of overcrowding abated	...	...	...	...	...	0

4. CERTIFICATES OF DISREPAIR.

Number of :—

a,	Certificates of Disrepair issued	...	...	...	...	...	1
b,	" " revoked	...	...	...	...	...	0

5. IMPROVEMENT GRANTS.

Number of :—

a,	Applications made	...	...	...	...	...	...	17
b,	Grants made	...	...	...	...	...	...	7

6. NUMBER OF HOUSES AND FLATS ERECTED DURING THE YEAR.

a,	By the Local Authority	...	...	...	...	...	...	66
b,	By other Authorities and Organizations	...	...	...	...	...	...	219
c,	By private persons	...	...	...	...	...	...	151

SUMMARY OF HOUSING DEFECTS.

Housing defects remedied during the year are recorded below in classified form. Work done in connection with the extermination of rats, mice, etc. is not recorded here, but under that part of the report dealing with the Prevention of Damage by Pests.

1. Site.

a, Drainage of ground unsatisfactory : 3. b, Outbuildings, inadequate or in bad repair : 2. c, Approach to back of house unsatisfactory : 0. d, Fencing defective : 0. e, Storage of refuse unsatisfactory : 38. f, Animals improperly kept : 10.

2. Prevention of Dampness.

a, Roof, chimney ; defective : 16. b, Gutters, downpipes ; defective : 18. c, Walls, doors, windows ; defective : 14. d, Damp-proof course defective : 2. e, Sub-floor ventilation defective : 0. f, Solid floor defective : 1. g, Soil against walls above damp-proof course : 0. (See also 1, a).

3. *Lighting, Ventilation.*
 - a*, Obstruction to light and air : 2. *b*, Window area or opening below standard : 2. *c*, Ventilation otherwise defective : 0. *d*, Artificial lighting defective : 0. (See also 8, f).
4. *Stability and External Repair not included under Sections 2 and 3, above : 0.*
5. *Water Supply.*
 - a*, Water supply not satisfactory : 2. *b*, Main supply disconnected : 3.
6. *Food Storage, Preparation and Cooking.*
 - a*, Storage of food unsatisfactory : 3. *b*, Cooking arrangements unsatisfactory : 0. *c*, Sink unsatisfactory : 6.
7. *Washing arrangements : Disposal of Waste Water.*
 - a*, Bath defective : 0. *b*, No bath : 0. *c*, Arrangements for water heating unsatisfactory : 0. *d*, Disposal of waste water unsatisfactory : 4.
8. *Closet accommodation : Soil Drainage.*
 - a*, Pail closet defective : 4. *b*, Water closet defective : 8. *c*, Drainage defective : 35. *d*, Disposal of sewage unsatisfactory : 0. *e*, Approach to outside closet not protected : 0. *f*, Lighting, ventilation ; inadequate : 2.
9. *Space-Heating.*
 - a*, Firegrate, flue : defective : 4.
10. *Repair, Decoration, Cleanliness : internal.*
 - a*, Internal structures defective : 10. *b*, Decoration in bad state : 0. *c*, Lack of cleanliness : 0. *d*, Infestation with bugs, etc. : 4.

WATER SUPPLY

The water supply of the District is adequate and chlorinated.

MILK SUPPLY

(a) Designated milks	<i>Retailers</i>				
Tuberculin Tested ...	...	...	...	...	18
Pasteurised ...	...	...	...	...	17
Sterilized ...	...	...	...	...	11
Number of inspections ...	16	Notices			2

ICE-CREAM.

Number of premises registered :—

(a) for Manufacture... ...	0	(b) for Sale ...	49
Number of inspections ...	61	Notices ...	2

During the year 55 samples of ice cream were taken and submitted for bacteriological examination. The results were as follows :—

Grade I, 49. Grade II, 2. Grade III, 0. Grade IV, 0.

Results were not obtained in four other samples owing to a breakdown of laboratory apparatus.

SLAUGHTERING AND MEAT INSPECTION
CARCASES AND OFFAL INSPECTED AND CONDEMNED IN WHOLE OR IN PART.

	Cattle exc. Cows	Cows	Calves	Sheep Lambs	Pigs	*Horses
Number killed (if known) ...	—	—	5	4	14	—
Number inspected ...	—	—	5	4	14	—
	All diseases except Tuberculosis and Cysticercosis					
Whole carcases condemned ...	—	—	—	—	—	—
Carcases of which some part or or organ was condemned ...	—	—	—	—	—	—
Whole carcases condemned ...	—	—	—	—	—	—
Carcases of which some part or organ was condemned ...	—	—	—	—	—	—
Carcases of which some part or organ was condemned ...	—	—	—	—	—	—
Carcases submitted to treat- ment by refrigeration ...	—	—	—	—	—	—

*For human consumption

FOOD CONDEMNED.

The following is a summary of Food condemned during the year:—

Meat, carcase 422lbs., Meat, canned 400lbs., Ham, canned 37lbs., Vegetables
canned 112lbs., Fruit, canned 256lbs., Soup, canned 8lbs., Fish, canned 17lbs.,
Fish 12lbs., Cheese 7lbs., Milk 25 cans, Sausages 46lbs., Confectionery 35lbs.,
Miscellaneous 16lbs.

Number of Food Premises inspected, 249 ; Contraventions, 8.

DISINFECTION AND DISINFESTATION

DISINFECTION : Number of houses disinfected 38

DISINFESTATION : Number of houses treated (Exc. rats and
mice) 2

PREVENTION OF DAMAGE BY PESTS

The work done during the year under the Prevention of Damage by Pests
Act, 1949, is recorded in the following section.

	Local Authority Depots, etc.	Dwelling Houses	Agricul- tural	All other, incl. Business & Industry	Total
1. Total No. of properties in L.A.s' district	14	12,764	151	929	13,858
2. No. of properties inspected by L.A. as a result of a, notifi- cation, b, otherwise	a, b, 14	128 916	1 25	6 125	135 1,080
3. No. of properties (under 2) found to be infested by rats (a) Major (b) Minor, Infest.,	a, b, 8	229	—	6	243
4. No. of properties (under 2) found to be infested by Mice a, Major b, Minor, Infest.	a, b,	27	—	—	27
5. No. of infested properties (under 3 & 4) treated by the L.A. ...	8	256	—	4	268
6. No. of notices served under Section 4 for: a, Treatment b, Structural Work	a, b,	—	—	—	—
7. Number of cases in which default action was taken by L.A. following issue of notice under S. 4 : 0.					
8. Legal Proceedings, 0.					
9. Number of "block control" schemes carried out, 8.					

CANAL BOATS, INSPECTION OF

Number of boats inspected ... 4	Contraventions ... 0
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PET ANIMALS ACT, 1951

Number of licences to keep Pet Shops, 3.

Number of premises inspected, 6 ; Contraventions, 0.

PUBLIC CLEANSING

(a) REFUSE COLLECTION—The service is carried out by direct labour throughout the District. During the post war years there has been considerable expansion in this service on account of the extensive housing development in the Council's area. Eleven vehicles are now employed, namely :—one 18 cu. yd. rear loader ; three 12 cu. yd. Double Cab ; two 10 cu. yd. Double Cab ; and five 10 cu. yd. Single Cab ; in full use. In addition, two 10 cu. yd. Single Cab act as relief vehicles.

The development taking place on the new L.C.C. Housing Estate at Boreham Wood necessitated an increase in the number of staff to cope with the considerable additional work involved. The new 18 cu. yd. Dennis Paxit rear loader was put into operation in this area during the year.

It has been the aim to maintain a weekly collection service, but difficulties have been experienced from time to time owing to absence of the regular staff on account of sickness, and it has not been possible to engage men in a temporary capacity to take the place of those absent. Generally, labour for this type of work is becoming more difficult to obtain and keep.

As from the 1st July, 1954, a Trade Refuse Collection Scheme was put into operation, a charge being made for the removal of trade refuse from shop premises. The scale of fees in force provides for no charge in respect of the first dustbin, 30/- per year for the second bin, 20/- for the third, and 15/- for the fourth and subsequent bins.

(b) REFUSE DISPOSAL—With the expansion of the refuse collection service, there has been a considerable increase in the amount of refuse collected, and additional land has had to be taken over at the two refuse disposal sites at Abbots Langley and Aldenham. Controlled tipping is being carried out at Abbots Langley with the assistance of mechanical equipment. The disposal site at Aldenham has been improved by the use of the additional land which has been made available, and mechanical equipment is to be provided at this site.

(c) CESSPOOL EMPTYING—The emptying of cesspools is undertaken by the Council, and the scheme covers the whole of the district. Cesspools are emptied at the request of owners or occupiers without charge, but the Council reserve the right to review this arrangement at any time and to impose a scale of charges in specific cases, or generally, should they consider it necessary or desirable.

An 800 gallon Cesspool Emptying Vehicle, operated by two men, is in use. In addition, it is necessary to employ the services of a contractor who uses modern type emptying vehicles. The improved efficiency of the service was maintained during the year, and as a result, the number of emptyings has increased.

The Council has under consideration the question of the laying of sewers in the more developed areas of the district, and this action would result in the abolition of a number of cesspools and the connection of the premises to a main drainage system.

The disposal of cesspool contents is as far as possible into sewers in the area, otherwise by discharge on to suitable land.

WORKING STATISTICS (January—December).

Total number of Cesspools emptied	...	...	...	...	514
Total number of emptyings of above Cesspools	...	...	...	...	1,865
Total number of loads removed	...	...	...	...	4,008
Number of gallons removed at 800 gallons per load	...				3,206,400

(d) PAIL CLOSET EMPTYING—This is undertaken by direct labour in the Parishes of Abbots Langley, Aldenham, and Sarratt. Pail closets are emptied weekly.

(e) PUBLIC CONVENIENCES—In addition to the Public Conveniences at Watling Street, Radlett, and at Station Approach, South Oxhey, plans are now in hand for provision of conveniences at Abbots Langley.

The maintenance and supervision of both Conveniences is carried out by the Public Health Department.

ADMINISTRATION OF THE FACTORIES ACTS, 1937 and 1948.

1.—Inspections for the purposes of provisions as to health.

Premises (1)	Number on Register (3)	Number of		
		Inspections (4)	Written notices (5)	Occupiers prosecuted (6)
(i) Factories in which Sections 1, 2, 3, 4 and 6 are to be enforced by Local Authorities	1	2	—	—
(ii) Factories not included in (i) in which Section 7 is enforced by the Local Authority	47	47	7	—
iii) Other Premises in which Section 7 is enforced by the Local Authority (excluding out-workers' premises)	—	—	—	—
TOTAL ...	48	49	7	—

2.—Cases in which defects were found.

Particulars (1)	Number of cases in which defects were found				Number of cases in which prosecutions were instituted (7)
	Found (3)	Remedied (4)	Referred To H.M. Inspector (5)	By H.M. Inspector (6)	
Want of cleanliness (S.1)	8	8	—	—	—
Overcrowding (S.2) ...	—	—	—	—	—
Unreasonable temperature (S.3)	—	—	—	—	—
Inadequate ventilation (S.4)	—	—	—	—	—
Ineffective drainage of floors (S.6)	—	—	—	—	—
Sanitary Conveniences (S.7) (a) insufficient ...	—	—	—	—	—
(b) Unsuitable or defective	2	2	—	—	—
(c) Not separate for sexes	—	—	—	—	—
Other offences (not including offences relating to Homework)	—	—	—	—	—
TOTAL ...	10	10	—	—	—

Outworkers S.110 (i) (c)—Number, 71; Notices, etc., Nil.

